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There has been another rise in the number of pupils offered their first preference secondary school in the city.

Around 87 per cent of pupils will now start this September at their preferred school. That represents an increase of four per cent on last year (83 per cent in 2015 and 81 per cent in 2014).

In total 2,375 applications were received on time and 97.4 per cent of pupils will be offered one of their three preferences.

Almost every application was made online this year, 99.96 per cent.

Parents who applied online were able to log on to the [council's online admissions website](https://admissions.peterborough.gov.uk/Enrol_Live/Website/default.aspx) (https://admissions.peterborough.gov.uk/Enrol_Live/Website/default.aspx) in the early hours of this morning and find out which school their child had been allocated. Letters and emails will also be sent to all.

Councillor John Holdich, leader of the council and cabinet member for education, skills and university, said: "Every year we aim to offer more and more pupils their first preference and it's fantastic to see another increase.

"Our education team works hard to improve standards throughout the city and to ensure we have enough pupil places in the right area. Schools are continuing to improve in the city and every headteacher is being challenged and supported to raise pupil attainment and progress."

Peterborough has seen a rise in the number of secondary schools rated good or better by Ofsted. Currently 10 out of the city's 12 secondary schools are rated as good or outstanding.

Terry Reynolds, the council's interim director for education, said that there is still further work to be done to improve schools in the city: "While education is clearly going in a positive direction in Peterborough we still need to improve attainment and offer further support to schools.

"The council is also pleased that the improvements at The Voyager Academy have been recognised by Ofsted following its recent inspection and the school no longer requires special measures.

"Voyager still requires improvement; however, it will be assisted by the Thomas Deacon Academy (TDA) as a school improvement partner. TDA has made rapid strides itself, moving from 'requires improvement' to 'good'. Its local experience will, we believe, provide effective support to the Voyager to accelerate its improvement under the leadership of its principal, Scott Hudson.

"Mr Hudson's impact on the Voyager, part of the Comberton Academies Trust, was singled out for favourable comment in the recent inspection report and he will now be supported by Julie Taylor, Executive Principal of TDA, whose effective leadership has also been recognised by Ofsted."

Parents have the [right to appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel](#) about any offered place.